

### 3. Revisions to the Draft EIR

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This chapter presents text revisions to the Draft EIR and the Master Plan Update (Appendix C to the Draft EIR) that were made in response to public and agency comments and also staff-directed changes. These revisions include typographical corrections, insignificant modifications, amplifications, and clarifications. Below, the revised page and location on the page is presented, followed by the textual, tabular, or graphical revision. Underline text represents language that has been added and text with ~~striketrough~~ indicates language that has been deleted.

These revisions do not constitute significant new information as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5 and no recirculation of the EIR is required.

**Page 1-9, Table 1-1, Executive Summary, and page 4.2-11, Mitigation Measure AG-1, is revised as shown below:**

Mitigation Measure AG-1: No mitigation measures are feasible to reduce the potential impact to less than significant levels. The intent of the Plan is to enhance recreational opportunities and create habitat conservation areas within the Parkway Plan Area. The farmland in the Parkway Plan Area may remain in agriculture, or may be offered for sale to the Conservancy, evaluated for acquisition, and may be acquired. Avoiding the acquisition of offered agricultural lands could interfere with achievement of Parkway goals and objectives.

As part of the process for each individual site-specific development project under the Parkway Master Plan Update, an applicable agricultural in-lieu mitigation fee for each acre of prime farmland to be developed shall be paid by the Conservancy at the time that agricultural land is to be developed or converted to non-agricultural uses, to an entity or agency holding or facilitating agricultural conservation easements within the region.

Notwithstanding the above commitment, in order to implement the Plan, conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses would not be reduced to a less-than-significant level, and the Project's impacts in this regard would be *significant and unavoidable*.

**Page 1-10, Table 1-1, Executive Summary, and page 4.2-13, Mitigation Measure AG-3, is revised as shown below:**

Mitigation Measure AG-3: No mitigation measures are feasible to reduce the potential impact to less than significant levels. The intent of the Plan is to enhance recreational opportunities and create habitat conservation areas within the Parkway Plan Area. The farmland in the Parkway Plan Area may remain in

## REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT EIR

agriculture, or may be offered for sale to the Conservancy, evaluated for acquisition, and may be acquired. Avoiding the acquisition of offered agricultural lands could interfere with achievement of Parkway goals and objectives. Even with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure AG-1, in order to implement the Plan, conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses cannot be reduced to a less-than-significant level, and the Project's impacts in this regard would be *significant and unavoidable*.

**Pages 4.4-39 and 4.4-42, Table 4.4-5, are amended as follows:**

Bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	SE (nesting and wintering)	Requires large bodies of water, or free-flowing rivers with abundant fish and adjacent snags and large trees for perching and nesting.	<del><b>Present:</b> Brood observed on Rank Island (2017). Absent as Breeder.</del> Bald eagles winter throughout the Parkway Plan Area. They are most common where waterfowl, especially American coots, congregate on open water such as the larger gravel ponds.
Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> )	ST	Breeds in stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and oak savannah; forages in adjacent livestock pasture, grassland, or grain fields.	<del><b>Present:</b> Brood observed at Ball Ranch (2016). Absent as Breeder.</del> Swainson's hawks have been observed in the Parkway Plan Area during migration. The nearest confirmed nest is located approximately 5 miles to the northeast along Highway 41 near Road 208.
Burrowing owl ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> )	CSSC	Grasslands and ruderal habitats.	<del><b>Present:</b> Observed at Lost Lake and Jensen Parks (2012 and 2016, respectively). May be Present.</del> Grasslands in the Parkway Plan Area provide suitable nesting, wintering, and foraging habitat.
Sanford's arrowhead ( <i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> )	CRPR 1B.2	Standing or slow-moving freshwater ponds, marshes, and ditches; generally in marshes and swamps.	<del><b>May be Present.</b></del> Observed in pond upriver from Highway 41, downriver from Lost Lake Park. Wetlands in the Parkway Plan Area provide suitable habitat for the species.

Note: The observations recorded above are personal observations recorded by the Fresno Audubon Society, Comment Letter B2, and Ms. Clary Creager, Comment Letter B5.

**Page 4.5-4, Cultural Resources, the following paragraph is added to the State Laws and Regulations:**

### Public Resources Code Section 6313, Title to Resources

The title to all abandoned shipwrecks, archaeological sites, and historic or cultural resources on or in the submerged lands of California are vested in the state and under the jurisdiction of the California State Lands Commission (Pub. Resources Code, Section 6313). The final disposition of archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources recovered on state lands under the jurisdiction of the Commission must be approved by the Commission.

**Page 4.5-14, Figure 4.5-1, is deleted from the Draft EIR at the request of the Dumna Wo Wah Tribal Government.**

**Page 4.8-13, first full paragraph, is revised as follows:**

Valley Oak Elementary School in the Clovis Unified School District is within ¼ mile of the Parkway Plan Area. Other schools within ½- to ¾-mile of the Parkway Plan Area include the Rio Vista and Norman Liddell Schools in the Central Unified School District, Forkner, ~~and Nelson~~ Elementary Schools within the

## REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT EIR

Fresno Unified School District, and Pinedale and Nelson Elementary Schools in the Clovis Unified School District. Adoption and implementation ....

**Page 4.9-10, paragraph 2, is revised as follows:**

The San Joaquin River receives runoff from the lands below the bluff and above the bluff. The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has eight ~~nine~~ permitted discharges and two planned discharges to the river that convey urban runoff to the river. These discharges are not part of the proposed Plan and would not be utilized under the Plan. Lands below the bluff drain to the river through natural drainage patterns.

**Page 4.10-7 through 4.10-11 Table 4.10-3, is revised as explained below:**

Table 4.10-3, Policy Consistency City of Fresno General Plan Goals and Policies, of the Draft EIR is superseded and replaced by Table I-1 in Appendix I to this Final EIR. Table I-1 provides a list of goals, policies, and objectives from the City of Fresno 2035 General Plan which was adopted in 2014 that are relevant to the Parkway Master Plan.

**Appendix C, San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan Update is revised as follows:**

*Page 1-1, Executive Summary, paragraph 3, has been revised as follows:*

The Parkway today includes public lands and improvements owned by the State of California [San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy), ~~City of Fresno, County of Fresno~~, State Lands Commission, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)], ~~Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), and City of Fresno, County of Fresno, and~~ Fresno County Office of Education, and those owned by the nonprofit San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (River Parkway Trust).

*Page 2-11, Section 2.8 has been revised as add the following definition:*

Public Trust Lands are defined as the area of the San Joaquin River waterward of the ordinary high-water mark, as represented on the San Joaquin River Friant Dam to Gravelly Ford Administrative Maps. This includes the Public Trust easement that is reserved to the people of California, between the ordinary high-water mark and the ordinary low-water mark.

*Page 5-11, Figure 5-7, is revised as shown on page 3-5 to show the River West Fresno, Eaton Trail Extension Project as approved by the Conservancy on December 13, 2017. The revised figure shows a “planned project” (gray icons) rather than “opportunities” (white icons). The conceptual plan for the project shown in Figure 5-19 is replaced with the approved project plan shown in this Response to Comments document, Final EIR, Chapter 5, Master Response 1.*

## REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT EIR

*Page 5-28 is revised as follows:*

- EIR ~~pending approval~~ for multi-use trail extension, hiking trails, fishing and nature observation, parking area(s), and restrooms (~~plan in development 2013~~ project approved December 13, 2017—see Figure 5-19 see Final EIR Master Response 1).

*In Chapter 6, the goals under each resource topic are assigned in alphabetic sequence, and policies have been added or revised as suggested by commenters as follows:*

*Page 6-4, San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJR Restoration Program).*

### Goals:

SJRRP.A Coordinate and cooperate with the SJR Restoration Program to ensure efficiency and develop projects that meet mutual objectives.

SJRRP.B Support, promote, and educate Parkway visitors about river history, restoration ecology, water supply, and the SJR Restoration Program.

*Page 6-5, Habitat Conservation and Management*

### Goals:

HABITAT.A Conserve, enhance, restore, and provide for public enjoyment of the aquatic, plant, and wildlife resources of the San Joaquin River Parkway. (NRG1)

HABITAT.B Conserve, enhance, restore and maintain contiguous and continuous native riparian, wetland and upland habitat on public lands and conservation easements for wildlife movement and refuge. (NRG2)

HABITAT.C Encourage conservation of habitat on private lands in the floodplain. (NRG2)

*Page 6-8, Floodplain and Water Resource Management*

### Goals:

WATER.A Develop the Parkway in a manner that will not interfere with the river's floodwater conveyance capacity. (FP1)

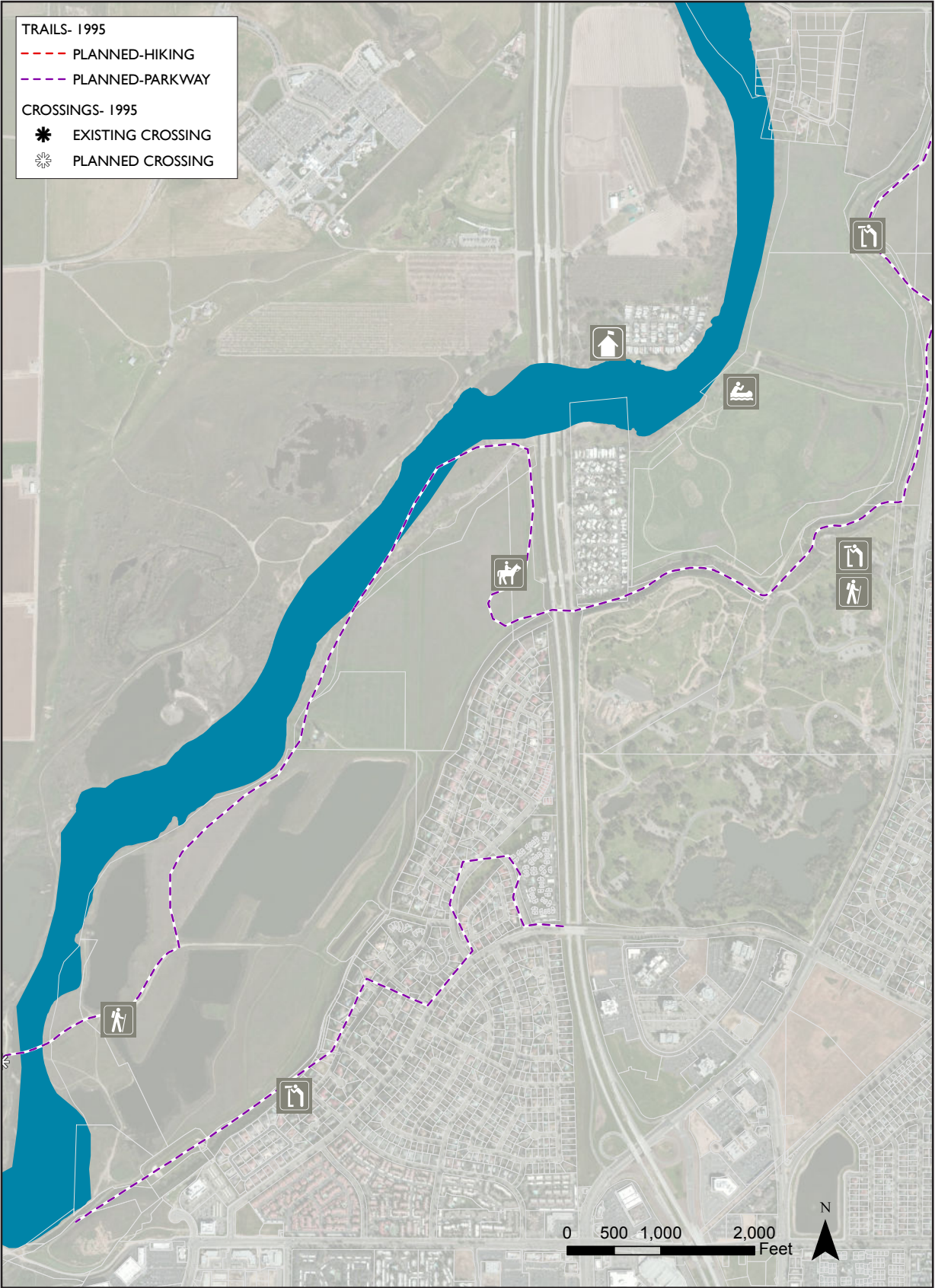
WATER.B Protect the river's water quality through appropriate management of stormwater runoff in the Parkway.



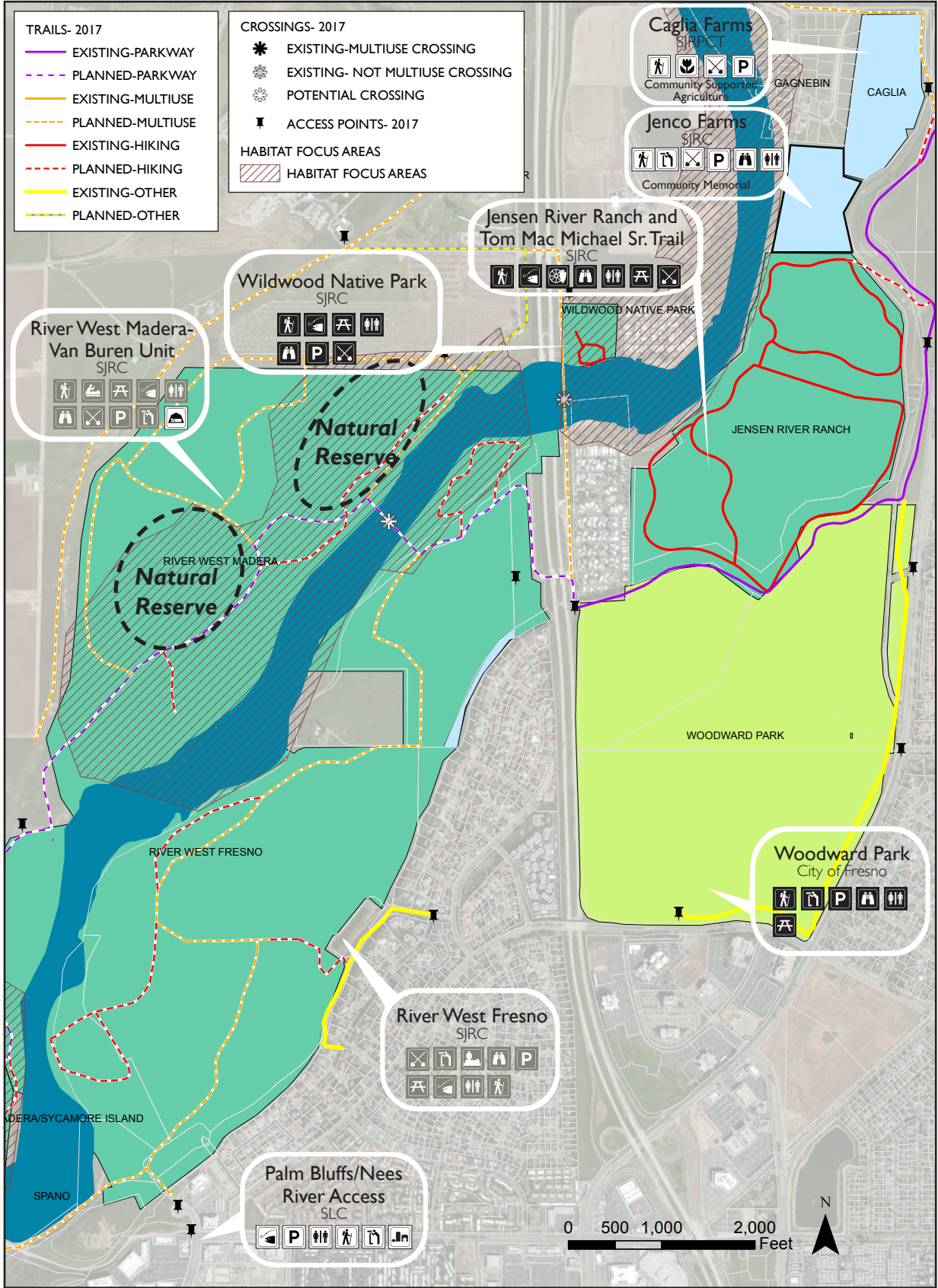
# San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan Update

## Comparison of Trails and River Crossings - 1995 Master Plan and Preliminary Update

Figure 5-7  
AREA 4 OF 7



1995 Parkway Master Plan



2017 Update- Preliminary

### 2017 Update

Planned trail alignments, especially those shown on private property, are shown only for illustrative purposes. The location of all Parkway facilities are subject to acquiring property or easements from willing sellers, site- and project-specific design, environmental review, and public participation.



## REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT EIR

WATER.C Conserve, improve, and manage lands and natural resources in the Parkway to facilitate more reliable water supplies; restore important species and habitat; and contribute to a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system.

*Page 6-10, Mineral Resource*

### Goals:

MINERAL.A Work with gravel mining companies to acquire high priority properties after they have been mined. Promote reclamation plans that enhance and complement Parkway goals and are Parkway-ready to the extent practicable. (MR1)

MINERAL.B Design, construct, and manage the Parkway in a manner that will not conflict with sand and gravel mining operations. (MR2)

*Page 6-10, Agricultural Resources*

### Goals:

AGRI.A Design, construct, and manage the Parkway in a manner that is compatible with agricultural uses (crops, livestock, orchards, and nurseries). (AO1)

AGRI.B Encourage the preservation of agricultural uses in the Parkway planning area. (AO1)

*Page 6-11, Air Resources, Climate Change Adaptation, and Sequestration*

### Goals:

AIR.A In developing the Parkway, utilize opportunities to improve regional air quality and reduce the potential for Parkway projects to contribute to air pollution. (RFP1)

AIR.B Incorporate climate adaptation and sequestration strategies in Parkway projects.

*Page 6-12, Cultural and Historic Resources*

### Goals:

CULTURE.A Preserve and protect cultural and historic resources on Parkway public lands. (RA1)

CULTURE.B Foster community pride, attract visitors and tourists to distinctive areas, provide recreational opportunities, enhance educational opportunities, and augment the body of scientific and historic knowledge through identification, appropriate recognition, and promotion of historic and cultural resources



## REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT EIR

CULTURE.C Utilize Parkway cultural and historic resources to educate the public about the values of this heritage (ROP10, RA1).

*Page 6-14, Public Access and Recreation*

### Goals:

ACCESS.A Provide river access and high quality recreation areas and facilities to meet recreational and environmental educational needs while conserving natural and cultural resources. (RA1)

ACCESS.B Ensure access to all segments of the population and to all residents of the region, in metropolitan and outlying areas. (no#)

ACCESS.C Manage recreational uses to minimize indiscriminate activities, trespass on private lands, and human impacts to natural resources in the Parkway. (RA3)

ACCESS.D Encourage trail corridors of sufficient width (varying with terrain, vegetation, and land) to preserve a scenic environment for users and to minimize impacts of trail use on wildlife and their habitat and on adjacent land uses. (no #)

ACCESS.E Provide public information, proper maintenance, rules, and enforcement to provide for public health and safety in the Parkway.

*Page 6-19, Environmental Education, Interpretation, and Outreach*

### Goals:

INTERP.A Provide within the Parkway a range of outdoor and environmental educational opportunities and programs to serve all members of the community.

INTERP.B Develop support for the Parkway through outreach and engagement.

INTERP.C Assure that educational opportunities highlight and incorporate the Parkway's natural resources, wildlife, and habitat.

*Page 6-20, the following policy is added:*

INTERP.14 Provide signage at all boat put-in areas and adjoining parking lots that identify aquatic invasive species and lists AIS clean, drain, and dry best management practices.



## REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT EIR

### *Page 6-20, Buffer Zones and Adjacent Land Uses*

#### **Goals:**

BUFFER.A Where possible and to the extent feasible (see BUFFER.2), implement buffer zones which protect, conserve, and enhance the Parkway's natural resources, wildlife, and habitat. (no #)

BUFFER.B Combine buffers, design, and management measures to adequately reduce and mitigate potential impacts from Parkway recreational uses on habitat, riparian corridors, and neighboring uses. Screen and separate recreational uses from adjacent private property, to the extent feasible. (no #)

BUFFER.C Encourage local land use agencies to protect habitat and natural resources of the river and floodplain through set-backs and buffers. (no #)

### *Page 6-23, Operations, Management, and Implementation*

#### **Goals:**

OPER.A Acquire lands to implement the Parkway Master Plan Update, including establishing natural reserves, recreation areas, a continuous wildlife movement corridor, and trail system. (LA1)  
Acquire lands on a willing buyer/willing seller basis. (LA2)

OPER.B Acquire lands according to established prioritization policies and criteria to ensure effective use of limited funds.

OPER.C Secure financial resources over the long-term to establish and continue the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of Parkway facilities and visitor services.

OPER.D Pursue a strategic yet flexible approach to a phased implementation of Parkway development that is responsive to funding and partnership opportunities, operations and maintenance resources, and public recreation/education needs.

OPER.E Ensure efficient and effective implementation of Parkway operations, programs, and facilities.

OPER.F Develop measureable objectives for projects, programs, and services provided on public Parkway lands.

*Page 9-2, has been revised to add new members currently serving as primary representatives on the Conservancy Board:*

Brett Frazier, Madera County Board of Supervisors

Will Oliver, Madera City Council

Kacey Auston, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Julie Vance, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

## REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT EIR

Julie Alvis, California Natural Resources Agency

Jennifer Lucchesi, California State Lands Commission

Conservancy Board staff involved in preparing the EIR are added as follows:

Heidi West, Wildlife Conservation Board

Rebecca Raus, San Joaquin River Conservancy